Densho Digital Repository Naoko Wake Collection of Oral Histories of US Survivors of the Atomic Bombs Collection Title: Yuriko Furubayashi Interview Narrator: Yuriko Furubayashi Interviewer: Naoko Wake Location: Kailua, Hawai'i Date: June 21, 2013 Densho ID: ddr-densho-1021-7-19

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NW: What was your life like after you came back to Hawai'i? What did you do and how did you restart your life in Hawai'i?

YF: Well, first thing, I had to go, you see, I was in Japan 10 years, so my English was so bad. You know, funny thing, 10 years and you, of course, you know, when I went to Japan, I was only elementary and then I went to Japan and I got to go full blast in Japanese. And I did okay, you know. Now when I came back, I got to back to English again. So I took some courses at the high school, they have English on their courses because actually I am a graduate of high school and other stuff. I do math and like that . . . I am not that . . . I am pretty good, but only English. So I went to school a couple of years, you know. I remember going to night school too, and working, you know?

NW: Right, right. What kind of work did you do?

YF: You know my sister? This one, this one here, had a bakery right in the middle of . . . and there's a high school, close by, walking distance. So I take a couple hours of classes and I work there. Because my family's waiting in Kahoku. So I stayed there and they needed help, so I worked at the big reef [?], learned how to do all those things, you know? But physically, you know, I was, some Japanese, for me, if I didn't go to defense work and work two, three years, you know, although . . . but physical work really worked you hard. And if I didn't have that, probably I wasn't going to be too good working in a bakery, you know? But, I told my sister, you tell me to cook rice and I don't know how to cook rice or I don't know how to cook but you tell me to wash the pan and do this and do that in a bakery, I'll do it, you know. And she said yeah! Physically, you're stronger than me. She was surprised because, you know, in Japan . . .

NW: You worked hard.

YF: Yeah, we worked hard, you know? I mean, all these years that I went to the Yamanaka is, it's the lady, Mrs. Yamanaka owned that private school, it's a finishing school. You learn the manners, you learn how to arrange a fan, you go tea ceremony and you, you know, when you're married, you've got to do this and, you know, talk this way, that way. To get into . . . it's to prepare you to get married, you know.

NW: Right, exactly.

YF: And married right, although I was kind of physically, I liked to be physical, tomboy-ish. So when I started to work in the factory to places, it was okay.

NW: Yeah. So did you continue to work for your sister's bakery for long time or did you move onto something else?

YF: Well, I came back 20. 23, I was married.

NW: Ah, okay. Did you stop working after you got married, then?

[Interruption]

YF: So I worked and at 23, I got married and I got married to a baker.

NW: Oh, he was a baker too! Did you work with his bakery, then?

YF: Yeah, my husband and I worked together, sort of like, of course, he had bakers and stuff and this is [showing a picture], and eventually we built a bakery and the oldest boy's name is Craig. This building, we own this building, still today

NW: Oh, that's wonderful. It's still a bakery, or?

YF: No, we just rent it to somebody. Some other people.

NW: So, you continued to work for your husband's bakery for, together, for a long time.

YF: We operated about 50 years.

NW: Wow. So, you must have been very successful.

YF: Yeah, he was a hard working person. I didn't take, you know, I'm only what you call, but he was very hardworking.

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